REMARKS

By the foregoing amendments, claims 1 and 21 have been amended and claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 1-6 and 8-22 are pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Interview Summary

The undersigned thanks Examiner Harper for the courtesy he extended during the telephonic interview conducted on April 6, 2004. During the interview, the rejection of claim 1 as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Kanevsky and Ozsu was discussed. The substance of that conversation is repeated in the remarks below.

Rejections under § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 14, 16 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Smith (U.S. Patent No. 5,054,082) in view of Kanevsky (U.S. Patent No. 5,897,616) and Ozsu. Applicant respectfully submits that each of those claims is patentable over the references of record.

Smith describes a system which stores code books for users at a central location. Smith describes a code book as voice recognition information associated with an individual such as speaker-specific parameters including variations in the vocal tracked response, pitch period, short-term speech power and amplitude of the short-term spectra. Smith, column 1, lines 27-36. A user can enter a code or identification on a communication device which causes that individual's code book to be downloaded from the central server to the communication device. Thereafter, the communication device responds to the voice commands of that individual utilizing that individual's code book. Smith, Summary of the Invention.

In the Office Action the identification code, which the user enters, was pointed to as corresponding to the element of "capturing an identifier related to a speaker" of claim 1. It was admitted in the Office Action that Smith does not teach determining a linkage key using the identifier and further does not teach selecting a subset of records based upon the linkage key. Kanevsky and Ozsu were pointed to for remedying those deficiencies of Smith. However, in view of the amendment to claim 1, Applicant further notes that Smith also does not teach or suggest "obtaining a grammar of potential matching words based upon the subset of records" as

set forth in amended claim 1. Rather, Smith provides a user-specific code book which includes speaker-specific parameters, not potential matching words.

Kanevsky describes a system wherein a caller identifies himself and then the system utilizes "specific information from the identified user's database to generate questions to the user." *See* Smith, column 6, lines 5-27. Note that Kanevsky uses the identification of the user to access a database associated with that user. Kanevsky does not teach or suggest capturing identifier and then determining a linkage key using the identifier. Rather, Kanevsky uses the identifier itself to directly access the database. In addition, Kanevsky accesses a database or data records directly associated with the user identified by the identifier. Further, Kanevsky does not use data or records obtained using the identifier to obtain a grammar of potential matching words.

Finally, Ozsu was pointed to as providing the teaching and use of the claimed linkage key. Specifically, the Office Action stated that Ozsu's description of transparent name resolution across a distributed database corresponds to the concept of a linkage key. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The transparent name resolution described in Ozsu at page 385 in section 13.2.1 appears to describe that the name of an entity permits access to that entity regardless of its location. In the footnote on that page, Ozsu notes that entities can be anything named and addressed in a computer system, and those things are typically files. Therefore, Ozsu's name uniquely identifies a file. That can be contrasted with a linkage key. A linkage key does not identify a unique file, rather a linkage key can extract different data from different files. For example, the identifier can be a telephone number, which is then used to obtain a United States Postal Service zip plus 4 associated with that telephone number. The zip plus 4 can be used to identify the street address. Therefore, a grammar can be obtained where the potential matching words are limited to the expected address. Alternatively, the zip plus 4 can be used to obtain latitude and longitude coordinates. The name transparency described in Ozsu results in the name always being identified or linked to a unique file. That is a much less flexible dynamic system than described in the present application.

Conclusion

The Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims, the reasons therefor, and arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claim set are presented above. Any
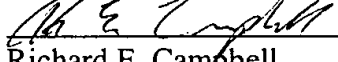
claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are made in order to improve the clarity of claim language, to correct grammatical mistakes or ambiguities, and to otherwise improve the capacity of the claims to particularly and distinctly point out the invention to those of skill in the art. In light of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is specifically requested. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned.

      Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: _April 13, 2004_   By: _____

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